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International Conference
„VULNERABILITY OF THE FETUS AND INFANT TO AMBIENT
POLLUTANTS AND REDUCED FOOD INTAKE IN PREGNANCY”
2-3 June, Krakow, Poland

Yagiellonian University Collegium Medicum (Chair of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine), Krakow, Poland and Polish Society for Environmental Epidemiology organized on June 2-3, 2006 the International Conference „Vulnerability of the fetus and infant to ambient pollutants and reduced food intake in pregnancy”.

The topics of the conference were of great importance for preventive medicine since health status and the origins of chronic diseases in adulthood are in part programmed by prenatal and early life.

The purposes of the conference, sponsored by International Center for Studies and Researches in Biomedicine in Luxembourg, were:

- to assess the effects of prenatal and early postnatal exposure to ambient and indoor pollutants such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, environmental tobacco smoke on fetal/child growth, neurobehavioral, development and child health status,
- to assess fetal responses to the changes in intrauterine environment caused by reduced food intake

around the time of conception and during pregnancy,

- to document fetal/childhood susceptibility to ambient pollutants due to genetic and nutritional factors.

Special focus of attention was dedicated to application of biomarkers in the monitoring of exposure to hazardous substances, in identifying individuals at increased risk of acute and chronic diseases and for the risk assessment at the populational level.

There were presented papers on the recent achievements and challenges in the following fields:

- new methodological approaches in studying the effects of prenatal environment on fetus and infants' health status,
- under nutrition in pregnancy, health disorders of fetus and pathology of growth of infants in early life,
- variations in expression of xenobiotic metabolism during fetal development and early life and susceptibility of the fetus to different factors dependent on period of exposure,
- carcinogenesis and early life exposure,

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- public health policy programs aiming at improving fetal nutrition and reducing environmental hazards.

In this meeting, clinicians, epidemiologists, toxicologists, public health officers from research centers, universities, public health institutions from Poland, U.S.A., United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Canada, Ukraine, Italy, Germany, Costa Rica, Holland, Spain, Romania, South Africa, etc have been participated.

Conference generated fruitful discussion, facilitating useful exchange of experience among participants from throughout the world.

Two works, „Relationship between the health of the newborn and of the

suckling till six months of age and the mother nutrition” (oral presentation) and „Smoking – behavior risk factor for the nutrition in pregnancy” (poster presentation) were presented by the Institute of Public Health, Iași, Romania, Department of Food Hygiene and Nutrition. Our participation was possible thanks to the kindly financial support of the organizers.

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